

be innocent, and commands the thing to be done after the fashion of Richard III, when ordering the murder of the infant princes in the Tower, using language which he knew was well understood by his tried and well trained assassins, but which could afterwards be denied to mean what he did fully mean and intend by it. To make this more certain, if possible, the Convention could not wind up their pretended proclamation of religious freedom, which follows in the second division of this article, without lugging in near its conclusion a repetition of this false charge against the members of the proscribed church; as much as to say, or for the purpose of saying in effect, lest some might suppose this general proclamation of equality of "civil and religious rights and privileges," and of "jealous resistance of all attempts by any denomination, or church, to obtain an ascendancy over any other in the State," &c., and went too far and the objects of proscription might escape under it, that all this was graciously vouchsafed to all other christian denominations but Catholics, who were to be excluded!

From all which, this minority cannot but conclude that the American Party of the Philadelphia Platform of June, 1855, is but the regular and legitimate descendant of the Know-nothing Party, and true to its descent, maintains and enforces in that Platform the principle and purpose of proscription, both on account of religious faith and place of birth!

The last clause in this first part of the 8th Article of the Platform applies in direct terms, the injunction to exclude from all offices, executive, legislative, judicial or diplomatic, all citizens, not of native *birth*! About this, contrary as it is to the spirit and principles of the Constitution and the fundamental doctrines of equality of political rights, privileges and immunities amongst all citizens, there is no concealment—no equivocation; the purpose is open, plain and clearly avowed. The general tone of popular feeling previously excited in the country, with some show of reason on account of the permission given to, and the privilege used by *unnaturalized foreigners* in some quarters of the Union of exercising the right of suffrage, resulting possibly in some instances in giving ascendancy to one or another of the political parties of the day, was supposed to justify, if not to render *politic*, this open avowal of the purpose to proscribe *all* who could not be brought under the extended signification of the term *foreigner*, that is, all persons not *born* in this country.

Let the true cause of this excitement in the public mind be examined for a moment, the character of the alleged evil be stated, and the sufficiency, applicability and consequences of the remedy proposed by this American party presented to view. There has been and is a boundless extent of highly fertile lands